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Foreword

By Kiyanaw Bird, Visual Arts Student Union (VASU) Artbook Creator and Editor

Starting with the idea of: “What if VASU did a collaborative comic book?”, this idea was in the works since November 2024. While the concept of a collaborative comic book was great in theory, it would limit this project and fail to capture the diversity of artists across the University of Saskatchewan. The appeal of a collaborative project eventually led to the involvement of the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal.

The VASU Artbook features submissions from graduating and currently registered USask undergraduate students. With the idea that creativity is not limited to one medium, this book features submissions that feature several different mediums, including digital works, acrylic paintings, pastels, poetry, clay sculptures, prints, and many more.

With over 65 individual submissions, this book offers insight into the creative minds of USask students. While 40% of our submissions stemmed from Studio Art majors, some of our submissions came from students with backgrounds in Accounting, English, Anthropology, Psychology, Computer Science, Interactive Systems Design, Regional and Urban Planning, Archaeology, Education, Soil Science, and Engineering. These artworks included everything from assignments, fan art and passion projects.

Though we all live and study in Saskatchewan, we each have unique lives, perspectives, problems, and victories that will never reach the ears and eyes of our peers. This book offers a method of viewing the world from each artist’s perspective by asking the questions: What’s a passion that you don’t see? What’s a problem that you never saw the solution to? What is the story behind the image that you admire?

Almost every day, we pass by and handle art without thinking about it- from the coffee cups we hold to the phones we use to connect with others. Each item was thought out and planned in the artist’s sketching process. When viewing this book, approach it with a sense of accomplishment and appreciation for the arts. It’s not limited to the traditional “Artists”; it stems from individuals passionate about their craft. Anybody can become an artist if they’re passionate about what they do.



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